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# Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

*Provisional*

**6478**th meeting

Wednesday, 9 February 2011, 10 a.m.

New York

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| *President*: | Mrs. Viotti | (Brazil) |
| *Members*: | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Mr. Barbalić |
| | China | Mr. Li Baodong |
| | Colombia | Mr. Osorio |
| | France | Mr. Araud |
| | Gabon | Mr. Moungara Moussotsi |
| | Germany | Mr. Wittig |
| | India | Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri |
| | Lebanon | Mr. Salam |
| | Nigeria | Mrs. Ogwu |
| | Portugal | Mr. Moraes Cabral |
| | Russian Federation | Mr. Churkin |
| | South Africa | Mr. Sangqu |
| | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Sir Mark Lyall Grant |
| | United States of America | Ms. Rice |

## Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.*

**Adoption of the agenda**

*The agenda was adopted.*

**Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan**

**The President**: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I should like to invite the representative of the Sudan to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Haile Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, and His Excellency Mr. Benjamin Mkapa, Chair of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan. I wish to acknowledge the presence in the Council Chamber of Mr. Antonio Monteiro and Mr. Bhojraj Pokharel, the two other members of the Panel.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Mahmoud Kane, head of the African Union Liaison Office in the Sudan, who will read a statement via videolink from Khartoum on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Thabo Mbeki, Chairperson of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel on the Sudan.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I also invite Mr. Deng Alor Kuol, Minister of Regional Cooperation of the Government of Southern Sudan.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I now give the floor to Mr. Haile Menkerios.

**Mr. Menkerios**: The day before yesterday, on 7 February, the final results of the Southern Sudan self-determination referendum were officially announced by the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission. Out of almost 4 million Southern Sudanese registered, 97.58 per cent voted in a process that has been unanimously described by all observers — national, regional and international, and the Panel of the Secretary-General included — as free, fair and credible. An overwhelming majority of voters — that, is 98.83 per cent — voted for secession.

On the day of the announcement of these results by the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission, President Omar Al-Bashir signed a decree confirming his Government's acceptance of these results as the legitimate expression of the will of the people of Southern Sudan, this confirming the Government of the Sudan's readiness to recognize the formation of an independent South Sudan at the end of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) period on 9 July 2011. In my most recent briefing to the Council (see S/PV.6468), I reiterated the role played by President Al-Bashir, who, one week before the referendum, made a historic visit to Juba, which completely changed the atmosphere and contributed to making the referendum process very peaceful and orderly.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the historical significance of these events. Against the odds, not only did the national Government of the Sudan contribute to the successful holding of the Southern Sudan self-determination referendum, but President Al-Bashir and the National Congress Party have now formally recognized the validity and legitimacy of its outcome. In doing so, they have most likely ended, once and for all, one of Africa's most protracted and deadliest conflicts. Indeed, 7 February 2011 will have to be remembered and celebrated in the Sudan's and Africa's history as a day when the longest running civil war in the continent's recent history came to a definitive end, when the spirit of peace and cooperation prevailed over the spirit of war.

This same spirit has also helped the CPA parties to make significant progress, in negotiations facilitated by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) chaired by President Mbeki, on a wide range of post-referendum arrangements between their two States. I applaud the leadership shown by Presidents Mbeki, Buyoya and Abu-Bakr for their stewardship of this important process.

Much of the groundwork has already been completed. Both parties are engaging seriously and making progress. A number of principles have been agreed with respect to open borders, good-neighbourly relations, non-interference in the affairs of the other and recognition of economic interdependence. In the area of security, the two parties have now defined a broad framework for non-aggression and military cooperation, and have decided to establish joint mechanisms to manage their security relations, including at their common border.

The parties have also agreed on the broad outline of citizenship arrangements, including rights of travel, residency, property ownership and employment, as well as protection against forced deportation or relocation for each other's citizens. In the economic and oil cluster, the parties are working towards mutually beneficial arrangements on oil revenue-sharing and a range of bilateral economic relations. I hope that the good will generated by the referendum will translate into increased momentum and the finalization soon of an agreement between the two CPA partners on all these and other post-referendum arrangements.

I would also like to commend the parties for their efforts to prevent and contain violence in Abyei, including the agreements reached in Kadugli on 1 and 17 January, and their recent commitment to resolving Abyei's status by the end of March. Both President Bashir and First Vice-President Kiir have reiterated their intent to address the local communities' concerns and facilitate a peaceful migration, while opposing any unilateral action in Abyei. At the parties' request, the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) facilitated the transport of nearly 1,280 additional joint integrated unit troops to an assembly point within the Abyei Area, and the Joint Defense Board has agreed on locations for their final deployment. I was told this morning, shortly before I came to the Security Council, that the deployment of those troops to their various locations started yesterday.

As soon as the joint integrated units are fully deployed to their designated posts in the Area, the Abyei Administration has agreed to withdraw the controversial Abyei police units from the field into Abyei town, thus allowing the seasonal Misseriya migration to commence, and the Misseriya have agreed to remove roadblocks currently preventing traffic from entering southern Abyei from the North.

Serious challenges remain, however. For the moment, those roadblocks continue to choke off the flow of food and other supplies into Abyei town. Despite the tireless efforts of UNMIS to support improved inter-tribal relations, tensions in the area continue. Given the delicacy of the current environment, I urge the parties to redouble their efforts to keep the peace on the ground, while taking advantage of the political momentum they have built in other areas to conclusively address the deeper issues driving the conflict in Abyei.

While incidents that took place in Abyei and Unity and Western Equatoria states cannot be downplayed, the security environment in the UNMIS area of operation was generally good during the referendum period. In Southern Sudan, progress is continuing on the integration of the forces which had rebelled against the Government of Southern Sudan following the April 2010 elections, and which had subsequently been granted amnesty. The fighting that occurred between members of the Sudanese Armed Forces joint integrated units between 3 and 5 February in Malakal and its vicinity, which caused up to 50 casualties among those units and civilians, was a reminder, however, of how fragile the security situation in Southern Sudan remains. It was easily destabilized by the attempt for a rushed dissolution of the joint integrated units, and I would like to urge the parties to remain cautious, to continue working together and, where appropriate, to utilize UNMIS in implementing decisions related to the termination of joint CPA institutions, such as the dissolution of the joint integrated units.

I would also like to welcome the conclusion of the popular consultation hearings in Blue Nile state. Issues such as power- and wealth-sharing, the future of Sudan People's Liberation Army members from the North, land allocation and cultural identity have been raised during the consultations and will need to be on the agenda of the discussions with the national Government. Popular consultations in Southern Kordofan are now expected to commence after the elections scheduled for May. Voter registration in Southern Kordofan started on 24 January and is expected to last three weeks.

I mentioned in my last briefing that the impact of the popular consultation process will be limited unless it is matched by an accommodating national dispensation. It is significant to note that since that time, the National Congress Party has promised not only to widen the base of the national Government, but also to start broad consultations over the future constitution of Northern Sudan. While the Northern opposition is asking to discuss the basis on which this broadening would unfold, such a political opening is definitely welcome, and UNMIS stands ready to support, in collusion with partners — particularly the AUHIP, which has the mandate to facilitate such a process — any political process that would permit the consolidation of the democratic gains made during the

CPA, which are essential to the continued stability of Northern Sudan.

The process for considering the United Nations future presence and possible role in Northern and Southern Sudan, and between the North and the South, has now started. For the South, the Government of Southern Sudan has indicated that it would welcome United Nations engagement in support of peace consolidation, capacity-building of the new State's institutions, and border management. A technical assessment of those needs will start very shortly this month. For the North, we are currently discussing with the authorities the areas in which they seek future United Nations cooperation. Possible United Nations or other third-party engagement in the implementation of post-referendum arrangements that the two States may agree upon — such as Abyei, the border, et cetera — are on the agenda of the current ongoing talks between the two parties. We shall keep the Council regularly informed of the decisions made by the parties on those issues.

The Sudan has given us an example of how the spirit of peace can overcome decades of war. The National Congress Party and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and their leaders — President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir and Salva Kiir Mayardit — deserve to be commended for that achievement, which will need to be built upon. Both North and South must now strive to consolidate peace and deliver on their promises to their people — promises to ensure effective and accountable democratic governance, to drive economic development and provide social services, to nurture their social and cultural diversity, to protect sustainably democratic rights and freedoms and to cooperate closely as neighbours in the pursuit of all those goals. In a sense, their work has only just begun, as has the work to effectively support them.

I encourage both Northern and Southern Sudanese leaders to maintain the spirit generated by the successful conclusion of the referendum in tackling the tasks ahead. This is a new and historic moment for the Sudan, a new dawn that, if built upon, can lead to sustainable peace and progress in the Sudan and contribute to the same in the immediate region and throughout the continent.

**The President**: I thank Mr. Menkerios for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency President Benjamin Mkapa, Chair of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan.

**Mr. Mkapa**: Thank you, Madam President, for the opportunity to address the Council on the Southern Sudan referendum process.

We just returned from Khartoum, where the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission declared the final result of the Southern Sudan referendum on self-determination. Almost 99 per cent of voters opted for the South's secession.

The referendum was a major milestone on the road to lasting peace in the Sudan charted by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, signed by the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in 2005. The two parties wrote to the Secretary-General in July last year, asking that the United Nations provide the main monitoring mission for the referendum in Southern Sudan. In September, the Secretary-General established our three-member Panel to monitor and assess the referendum process for both Southern Sudan and the Abyei Area.

We were privileged to be asked to carry out that task at a historic juncture in the history of the Sudan. We undertook five visits to the country and we established a support office, with field offices across the country. The Panel concludes that the referendum's outcome reflects the will of the people of Southern Sudan and that the referendum process was free, fair and credible. We congratulate the people of the Sudan for their commitment, dignity and patience, which ensured that the process was peaceful and on schedule.

The last time the Panel briefed the Council (see S/PV.6468), voting had just ended and the aggregation of results in the North, South and out-of-country voting locations had started. The Panel and its staff monitored the counting and transmission of sensitive material throughout the country, and also out-of-country. The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and Bureau announced preliminary results in accordance with the publicized timeline. The Supreme Court confirmed that it had not received any appeals challenging the result.

The Panel assessed the referendum process based on criteria stipulated in the Southern Sudan Referendum Act. Those include an appropriate environment and security conditions for the free exercise of the right to self-determination; freedom of

expression; the presence and participation of domestic and international observers; freedom of assembly and movement and voter education about the process.

The Panel is of the view that the referendum process was conducted in a highly transparent manner. Civil society organizations participated extensively. Public statements by senior Government officials in the North and South were increasingly encouraging and freely transmitted through the media.

There were some problems. Lack of progress on post-referendum arrangements meant that voters made their decision in a situation of political uncertainty, and voter education programmes were sometimes lacking. A number of security incidents, not directly related to the referendum, took place during the registration and voting periods. There were a few instances of intimidation of registrants, journalists and political and human rights activists. However, those were isolated incidents. In the view of the Panel, none of them materially affected the credibility of the process.

The Panel commends the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission, its Bureau and all referendum staff for overcoming numerous challenges to administer the referendum successfully. We also commend the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, the United Nations Integrated Referendum and Electoral Division and other international electoral advisers, national and international observer groups and donors for their assistance in achieving that goal.

The Panel recognizes and commends the decisive role of President Omer Al-Bashir and First Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit. They demonstrated courage and political commitment to ensure that a key milestone in the peace process was reached.

The parties' work is not over. We call on the parties to the Peace Agreement to utilize the momentum created by the successful completion of the referendum to reach a lasting agreement on post-referendum arrangements, so that the peoples of Northern and Southern Sudan can live together side by side in cooperation, security and dignity. The Panel also stresses the continuing importance of the protection of all Sudanese citizens, both Northerners and Southerners.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement stipulated that the Abyei Area referendum should be held simultaneously with the Southern Sudan referendum. The Panel regrets that this did not take place. The Abyei Area referendum commission has yet to be established, and no agreement has been reached on who would be eligible to vote. Deadly clashes took place in the Area, further complicating the situation. The Panel urges the two parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to seek a speedy and lasting solution on Abyei. We call on the people of the Area to display patience and tolerance until an equitable solution is found.

The referendum is not an end in itself. If implemented, this would herald a new political dispensation for the North and the South. For that reason, we urge the international community to continue its political engagement, redouble its efforts to assist the Sudan in the coming months and assist the new entities that emerge in the post-interim period. It is only with that kind of active engagement that this dispensation can be a sustainable one.

**The President**: I thank President Mkapa for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Ambassador Mahmoud Kane, Head of the African Union Liaison Office in the Sudan.

**Mr. Kane**: His Excellency Mr. Thabo Mbeki, Chairman of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel on the Sudan, would have loved to address today this important meeting of the Security Council. Unfortunately, this morning he had to travel to Ghana for a previously arranged engagement. He has requested me to deliver, on his behalf, the following remarks, which I am humbly pleased to do.

> "The African Union (AU) High-level Implementation Panel on the Sudan would like to thank the Council for giving us the opportunity to address it once again. Its meeting today provides an opportunity for all of us once more to commend and congratulate the people of the Sudan on the success of the Southern Sudan referendum.
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> "Our Panel had the privilege to observe first hand the people of Southern Sudan as they cast their votes. Given the historic significance of the referendum, it was of the utmost importance that it be conducted in a credible and peaceful manner. Our own observations, which coincide with those of the Secretary-General's Panel on

the Referenda in the Sudan, led by President Benjamin Mkapa and other national and international observers, are that, indeed, the referendum met all the criteria of legitimacy, leaving no room for a challenge to its outcome.

"Happily, because of that, the Government of the Sudan has duly accepted the result. With the referendum, the people of Northern and Southern Sudan have decisively put their history of animosity and conflict behind them. We are confident that they will never return to war. In that regard, we once again commend and congratulate the people of the Sudan, their political parties and their leaders, including President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir and First Vice-President Salva Kiir Mayardit in particular, for their courage, steadfastness and unwavering commitment to peace.

"We also reiterate our commendation of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission, the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) and Special Representative of the Secretary-General Haile Menkerios for everything that they did to ensure the success of the referendum. We must also thank the rest of the international community for the resources that it made available to help finance the referendum.

"Ten days ago, the meeting of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, unanimously adopted a solemn declaration on the Sudan. It included the following words:

> 'Sudan has the utmost importance to the African continent. It spans the diversity of our continent, bringing our peoples together in a great melting pot. The achievement of peace, democracy and development in northern and southern Sudan promises to help lift the entire continent. Sudan's ability to overcome the formidable obstacles in its path stands as a testament to Africa's capacity to resolve its conflicts and achieve our common goals. Conversely, Africa cannot afford to see Sudan again plunge into turmoil...
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> 'We express Africa's solidarity with the entire Sudanese people, and welcome equally North and South Sudan and the emerging post-referendum situation, as building blocks for the ongoing project of African integration. Having achieved peace, the Sudanese people are now able fully to participate as effective actors and beneficiaries in the common African endeavour of shared prosperity and continental unity.'

"As part of Africa's commitment to assisting the Sudanese people to achieve those goals in the months ahead, our Panel will continue to facilitate the negotiations to finalize the outstanding issues in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Those include Abyei, the demarcation of the North-South border, the resolution of disputed areas along that border, and the completion of the popular consultations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile. In all those matters, we work in exemplary partnership with UNMIS and Special Representative of the Secretary-General Haile Menkerios.

"We also continue to facilitate the negotiations between the parties on post-referendum arrangements, which include issues of economic cooperation, the relief of the country's onerous and unsupportable debt, security, citizenship and people-to-people relations within the context of two viable and mutually supportive States. We are happy to inform the Council that the Sudanese parties have made significant progress towards a final agreement on these matters.

"The Council will recall that, in December 2009, we spoke in this Chamber (see S/PV.6251) and informed the Council that the report and recommendations of the AU High-Level Panel on Darfur had been adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council on 29 October 2009. One of the most important of these recommendations, which became African Union policy for the resolution of the conflict in Darfur, was that only an inclusive process of negotiations in which all Darfur constituencies would be able to participate would produce the necessary comprehensive and lasting agreement. This reflected very directly the demand presented to us by the various Darfur constituencies.

"The people of Darfur continue to demand an inclusive political process that will allow them to determine their own future, including through negotiations with the Government of the Sudan. Indeed, in successive meetings of the Sudan Consultative Forum in May, July and November 2010, the African Union, the United Nations and other international partners endorsed this approach, without dissent. Accordingly, to implement a decision taken by the African Union together with the people of Darfur 15 months ago, we will soon begin the political process, working with the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), which will lead to the holding of an inclusive conference of Darfurians, who will then engage the Government of the Sudan. In this regard, we will fully take on board the outcomes of the Doha peace negotiations.

"Furthermore, in this context, our Panel and UNAMID have agreed and are working with the Government of the Sudan to establish the required environment for the success of the Darfur political process, as happened when we engaged the people of Darfur as we prepared our report and recommendations in 2009. Together with Joint Special Representative Ibrahim Gambari, we are determined to do our best to ensure that a Darfur global political agreement is concluded before the end of the CPA interim period on July 9. This is vitally important in terms of the future of Northern Sudan, and indeed of both States which will emerge in five months after the secession of the South.

"Throughout the CPA period, President Al-Bashir and First Vice-President Kiir have demonstrated their personal and political courage, statesmanship and good faith. We have every confidence that they and their respective Governments, and the Sudanese people as a whole, will continue to do everything necessary to address the various challenges which confront the Sudan. In this context, we are pleased to reassure the Council that these leaders and their colleagues are fully conscious of and sensitive to the challenges they face, enjoying greater familiarity with the Sudan than we non-Sudanese could ever have. Accordingly, our task is to assist them to the best of our ability as they confront these challenges. We are very pleased with the cooperation they have extended to us in this regard.

"We trust that the Council will also continue to extend its invaluable assistance to the Sudanese people as they take their country through the momentous few months ahead of us. In addition, we are very pleased that Africa stands ready to assist the two African States that will emerge after 9 July as they confront the even greater challenges of nation-building than those they face today.

"We further trust that the Security Council will use its influence to also encourage the rest of the international community to continue to extend its support to the peoples of Northern and Southern Sudan in order to assist them in establishing two viable States."

**The President**: I thank Ambassador Kane for his statement on behalf of President Mbeki.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

**Mr. Osman** (Sudan): The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan, Mr. Ali Karti, who was supposed to be at our meeting this morning, conveys his regards to the Security Council. Minister Karti could not be here owing to a problem with his flight. I will deliver a statement on his behalf.

(*spoke in Arabic*)

"At the outset, I would to extend our warmest congratulations to our brothers in Southern Sudan. With all pride, I would like to state that the Sudanese leadership and people yesterday set a wonderful example in fulfilling our covenants when our leadership, represented by our President, fulfilled our promises in accepting the outcome of the referendum. This was in implementation of the words of God, "Thou shalt fulfil every covenant. Verily! The covenant will be questioned about". (*The Holy Koran, XVII*: 34)

"Keeping the promise by the Sudanese leadership on such a strategic question — fulfilling the covenant — demonstrates the highest degree of nobility, as President Omer Al-Bashir has said. Should fulfilling that promise not be

rewarded by the Security Council and all members of the international community? Should that not be reciprocated by a new vision rewarding the keeping of the promise, a new vision that would reconsider the position vis-à-vis the hero of peace? That hero is President Al-Bashir, as he has been described by the leader Salva Kiir, the First Vice-President of the Republic and President of the Government of the South. I am confident that the Council will do so, and thereby will have encouraged the pursuit of security, peace and stability, which are the noblest tasks of the Council.

"Yesterday, all members of the Council followed the outcome of the referendum on the self-determination of Southern Sudan. This was one of the most important and precious elements of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. It was the dowry of the self-determination of the South. In other words, it was the unity of the Sudan, which was sacrificed as the price of peace and stability and out of respect for the desire of our brothers in Southern Sudan. They have exercised their right to self-determination, in consonance with the Agreement.

"As the Council is aware, the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission announced the outcome of the referendum on the morning of the date that was specified, that of Monday, 7 February. There was an official celebration, witnessed by our President, Mr. Omer Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir, who was the first to bless the outcome. That outcome reflected clear support for the option of secession, with 98.8 per cent of the votes in favour.

"The Chair of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission has submitted the outcome to the President, his First Vice-President, Mr. Salva Kiir Mayardit, and the other Vice-President, Mr. Ali Osman Taha. It was subsequently ratified by the Cabinet in an emergency session. The President, on behalf of the Government of the Sudan, welcomed the outcome and reiterated that the Sudan was anxious to develop brotherly and sisterly relations with the South on the basis of integration, cooperation and a peaceful and stable coexistence that would fulfil the aspirations of the South and the North alike.

"The President also stated that the North would extend help and assistance to the South in establishing the nascent country. He specified that it would help with training and the extension of capacity-building in all areas. He added that building the capacity of the South would also enhance the capacity of the North. He affirmed that the spirit that prevailed in dealing with the referendum would also lead to a resolution of all issues still outstanding between the two parties.

"For the past five years, we have reiterated to the Council that we would continue to fulfil all of our commitments under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including the referendum on the self-determination of Southern Sudan. Today, we announce here that we have fulfilled our promise completely. We have done so in the belief that unity cannot be imposed on the people and that peace is the primary option. Peace should take precedence over the option of unity, as long as it is the desire of our brothers in the South.

"It is in that spirit and with the same commitment that I reaffirm to the Council that the secession by the Sudanese South in no way means that we would establish a geographic wall that would separate the North and the South, or sever the links and relations between the North and the South.

"Entirely to the contrary, this means only a new beginning for a new stage of close cooperation and work between the North and the South. That cooperation would reflect the linkage of interests and the reciprocal needs of both parties.

"From this rostrum, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission. This national mechanism has carried out its duty in an exemplary manner, as certified by all the regional and national observers monitoring the registration and referendum processes, despite all the difficulties it faced, particularly the short period of time available.

"We would also like to thank all our international partners: the international community and this Organization, represented by the United Nations Mission in the Sudan; the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the

Sudan, led by Mr. Benjamin Mkapa; and the Security Council, which has continued to closely monitor all phases of the referendum to see the Comprehensive Peace Agreement implemented. We also thank the African Union panel of wise men, led by President Thabo Mbeki, for its efforts and initiatives to narrow the differences between the two partners on the remaining issues.

"We affirm to the Council that we will continue with the same resolve, credibility and transparency to seek an objective settlement for all outstanding issues, including the situation in the Abyei region. Needless to say, the Abyei issue is not merely a question of the demarcation of administrative borders on the ground or of the division of resources or wealth. It is about addressing the future of the two largest ethnic groups in the region, the tribes of the Dinka Ngok and the Misseriya.

"This region has always been a bridge between North and South. In view of its history of coexistence and tribal interaction, addressing this question requires us to adopt a comprehensive approach of wisdom and reason in order to achieve sustainable peace and stability. We also affirm that continued negotiations between the two parties, and their resolve to achieve a settlement, represent the only assurance of ending tensions in that region so that it does not become an area of confrontation.

"As for Darfur, the Government of the Sudan has always sincerely affirmed that its policy is about resolving the conflicts there, not managing them. This requires negotiations aimed at achieving a comprehensive political settlement, as we have done with Southern Sudan. Let me reiterate our position of strong support for all the efforts of the mediation in Doha, under the aegis of our sister Government of Qatar and with the support of the African Union and the United Nations.

"However, and in order to guarantee the participation of the majority of citizens of Darfur in a peaceful settlement to achieve a sustainable piece, the Government has adopted a Darfur peace strategy. That is now being steadily implemented in close coordination with the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). As Council members are aware, the most important focus of the strategy is to promote the peace process from the inside so that it functions in parallel and in a complementary manner to the Doha negotiations through the completion of the Darfur dialogue process.

"To that end, we have established a joint working group to include the Sudanese Government and UNAMID. In this connection, preparations and coordination continue through a joint working group so that the whole of Darfur can take part in the political process from within, especially in April the people of Darfur elected their representatives for the National Assembly and the assemblies of the three states of Darfur. Those who were elected enjoy legitimacy as the genuine representatives of the people of Darfur. We thus reaffirm the importance of the Darfur-Darfur dialogue as one of the most important pillars supporting the achievement of a sustainable peace in Darfur.

"Before I conclude, I would like to appeal to all members of the Council and all donor countries to extend economic assistance to both parts of the Sudan, North and South, and to forgive the country's debts so that we may enable our brothers in the South to build their nascent State and compensate the North for the consequences of economic separation from the South. In this regard, I also make a strong appeal for the economic sanctions that have been imposed on the Sudan to be reconsidered, reviewed and lifted. The economic stability of the North also means stability for the South. As the First Vice-President of the Republic and the head of the Government of the South, Mr. Salva Kiir Mayardit, said on Monday at the Cabinet's session in Khartoum, any threat to the North is a threat to the South, and vice versa. There is no greater threat than difficult economic circumstances in either part of the Sudan.

"In conclusion, we again congratulate our brothers in Southern Sudan on their choice. Meanwhile, we reaffirm that peace is a single entity that cannot be divided. The Government of Sudan looks forward to the prospect of a sisterly country, stable and safe, in the South. We will do all in our power and resolve to achieve that.

> "We are confident that our brothers in the South share our understanding of the need for cooperation and integration at this juncture. These have become requirements in the age of globalization, an age fundamentally characterized by the need for small entities to integrate in order to draw on the opportunities and face the challenges of globalization. There is no doubt that integration would reinforce the social and economic links between our two countries and realize the interests of our peoples, which in turn would only benefit have positive effects for our region and more broadly for the continent of Africa."

**The President**: I thank the representative of the Sudan for his statement on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Ali Karti, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan.

I now give the floor to Mr. Deng Alor Kuol, Minister of Regional Cooperation of the Government of Southern Sudan.

**Mr. Deng Alor Kuol**: I am very grateful for the opportunity to address the Council following the official announcement of the final results of the referendum in Southern Sudan, and to put forward the views of the Government of Southern Sudan on behalf of all of our people.

I would like to thank you, Madam President, for calling this meeting immediately following the announcement of the final results. This is an indication of the Council's continued support for the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and its determination to remain fully engaged in the maintenance of peace and stability in the Sudan.

I would like to thank the members of the Council for their tireless and continued efforts in this regard. I would also like to express my Government's gratitude for the significant contributions made by the United Nations, and by the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and the Secretary-General's Monitoring Panel in particular, to the safe and peaceful holding of the Southern Sudan referendum.

The fact that the referendum was held on time and conducted peacefully is a major and historic achievement, of which we can all be proud. It is a testament both to the capability of the United Nations, as well as that of the Government of Southern Sudan. Most important, it is a manifestation of the maturity and commitment of all of our citizens to exercise their right to self-determination. The Government of Southern Sudan is satisfied that the conduct of the referendum was peaceful and that the referendum outcome reflects the true democratic will of the people of Southern Sudan. We can now say with confidence that the people have spoken, and they have clearly voted to establish an independent State in South Sudan.

With this in mind, the Government of Southern Sudan calls on the Council and on the international community to recognize the results of the referendum in a timely fashion, to support the emergence of an independent South Sudan on 9 July and to recognize and accept the independent State immediately thereafter. In this context, we welcome the formal acceptance of the final results of the referendum by President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir and the Government of the Sudan, and the commitment to establish two mutually supportive States, at peace with one another, following the end of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement interim period. We also wish to acknowledge the contribution of the people of Northern Sudan to the successful conduct of the referendum, as well as their support for the acceptance of the results. We also note and welcome initial moves being made by members of the international community to provide debt relief for the Republic of the Sudan.

Our challenge now is to finalize the full implementation of the remaining provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, to which we remain completely committed. Building a sustainable and lasting peace for all of the people of the Sudan remains our top priority. We are therefore ready to re-engage vigorously with our partner the National Congress Party (NCP) on critical post-referendum issues, including oil revenue flows, citizenship, protection of our populations and border security. Clarity on all outstanding issues is essential to maintaining stability and progress throughout the region, although in accordance with the provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the resolution of those issues is not a precondition for the emergence of an independent State in South Sudan, which will become a reality at the end of the interim period.

While we will proceed along separate paths, both parties have a joint responsibility to all the peoples of

the Sudan to guarantee a peaceful and prosperous future. We believe that this will be achieved by establishing mutual respect and cooperation between Northern and Southern Sudan. We have no interest in returning to the hostilities and divisions of the past. It is our most sincere wish to achieve peaceful coexistence between North and South, to enable all of our peoples to live in security and prosperity. We welcome the Security Council's continued support of this process.

The Government of Southern Sudan, on behalf of the people of Abyei, would like to express its deep disappointment that the referendum required by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on Abyei did not take place. The terms of the Abyei Protocol, as well as those of the award of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, have very clearly set out the legal obligations of both parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement with respect to Abyei. Although the recent regrettable security incidents have been addressed, it is clear that a final and lasting solution on Abyei must be found, and found quickly.

During the last meeting of the presidency, North and South Sudan committed to reaching an early agreement on Abyei. We remain ready to start work immediately with the National Congress Party to resolve the impasse. We continue to see two possible outcomes: either the holding of a referendum consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement or a transfer of Abyei by presidential decree to the South.

Separately, the South is fully committed to respecting and protecting the grazing rights of Misseriya nomads and other livestock-keepers in Southern Sudan. Those rights will be protected irrespective of the status of Abyei. Despite the challenges we face on this issue, we are optimistic that with the continued support of President Thabo Mbeki, the United States Special Envoy General Scott Gration and the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, the Abyei issue shall be resolved definitively.

The Government of Southern Sudan welcomes the start of the popular consultation process in Blue Nile and calls for such a process to be started in Southern Kordofan as well. We are committed to assisting our partners in the NCP to find a just and fair political settlement for Darfur. We believe that all parties should come to the negotiating table. We do not support a military solution. It is not in the interest of Southern Sudan to encourage war in any area of the Sudan, since we are now enjoying the fruits of a peace that we would like our brothers and sisters in Darfur and all other parts of the country to enjoy as well.

Now that the formidable burdens associated with preparing for the referendum have passed, the Government of Southern Sudan is actively preparing for the responsibilities of statehood by continuing our work on good governance, institution-building and the establishment of a multiparty democracy. The peaceful conduct of the referendum serves as a demonstration of our capabilities and of the maturity of our citizens.

We have already established a technical committee to review the interim constitution of Southern Sudan. This will be followed by the establishment of a constitutional conference. Following independence, the Government of Southern Sudan will establish a broad-based Government of national unity in the South, promulgate a new constitution, and schedule national elections.

Also following independence, the Government of Southern Sudan will apply for membership in the relevant regional and international organizations and international financial institutions. South Sudan shall undertake a review of international treaties, conventions and agreements with a view towards acceding to such agreements upon achieving statehood. We will pay particular attention to the international human rights instruments and international humanitarian law. Of course, regardless of the status of its accession to treaties, the new State shall uphold the principles of the United Nations Charter and the rights and duties affirmed in all relevant international human rights instruments.

The Government of South Sudan will vigorously continue the fight against corruption and will institute all necessary measures to stamp it out. We are also committed to reflecting international human rights norms in our national structures and Government institutions. South Sudan will be not just the world's newest State, but its newest democracy, and we are committed to Government that reflects the will of the people.

We very much welcome the support of the international community in these efforts. The Government of Southern Sudan particularly appreciates the critical role that the United Nations Mission in the

Sudan has played in support of the referendum and in the provision of security in the border areas. The Government of Southern Sudan wishes to see a continued United Nations presence in South Sudan after July 2011. The Government of Southern Sudan looks forward to participating in all relevant discussions, both formal and informal, on the mandate for the continued United Nations presence.

We believe that, after July, the United Nations peacekeeping presence should have a strong focus on maintaining peace and security in the border regions. The United Nations presence should also provide humanitarian assistance for Southerners returning from the North. While we believe that South Sudan itself should have the primary responsibility for the protection of civilians, we envisage that the United Nations and the international community could play a supporting role in this regard, particularly in relation to the risk of insecurity in the border areas and the protection of returnees.

The Government of Southern Sudan's primary focus will be to achieve peace and security through the economic development of South Sudan, and it will work to build the necessary human and physical infrastructure to achieve this. We welcome the continued international support for the implementation of South Sudan's national development strategy.

We support calls for the convening of a donors' conference to promote a coherent and coordinated effort among prospective donors. The Government of Southern Sudan would welcome additional efforts on the part of donors to coordinate such assistance as far as possible. The Government of Southern Sudan is also considering the possibility of our inclusion on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission. We will consider this in the context of a coordinated and comprehensive approach to the issues of security, peace and development in Southern Sudan. Separately, the Government of Southern Sudan would also welcome early international action on the issue of the Sudan's international debt.

Of course there will be challenges ahead, and our people will need to be reminded that raising the Southern Sudanese flag on 9 July does not mean that the hard work is over. But their future is in their hands, their triumphs shall be theirs, and the success they have achieved thus far will continue to move us forward. We are confident that, with the continued support of the international community, the new independent Southern Sudanese State that will emerge on 9 July will be one that grows in strength and capacity with every passing year.

This is a decisive moment for Sudan. We are conscious that the referendum is not the end point, but rather provides for a new beginning, and that much work remains to be done. It is my hope that, as Northern and Southern Sudan embark on a new journey, we will have the chance to convey important lessons to the rest of our continent about establishing genuine and lasting peace after a period of war, and about building successful States that provide peace, stability and prosperity for all.

**The President**: I now give the floor to the representatives of Council members.

**Ms. Rice** (United States of America): I thank Special Representative Menkerios, President Mkapa, Ambassador Osman on behalf of Foreign Minister Karti, Minister Deng Alor Kuol, and the representative of President Mbeki for their very encouraging comments here today. We deeply appreciate their ongoing dedication to the cause of peace in the Sudan.

After decades of conflict, the images of millions of Southern Sudanese voters deciding their own future was an inspiration to the entire world and another step forward in Africa's long journey towards justice and democracy. Now all parties have a responsibility to ensure that this historic moment of promise becomes a moment of lasting progress. On behalf of the people of the United States, let me again congratulate the people of South Sudan on a successful and historic referendum in which the overwhelming majority of voters chose independence.

We welcome the announcement of the final referendum results and the Government of the Sudan's acceptance of that outcome. We thank the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, led by President Mkapa, for its crucial role in the process. We are grateful that the entire process was peaceful, and we commend both parties. Respecting the referendum's outcome is our best hope for preventing renewed conflict, and we appreciate the positive statements made thus far by the Sudan's leaders and by international actors.

We call special attention to the African Union's intention to recognize the referendum's outcome and

its call on all States to do likewise. Official recognition of the new State will be crucial and, as President Obama has announced, it is the intention of the United States to formally recognize Southern Sudan as a sovereign, independent State in July 2011.

By summer, the international community will welcome a new nation — the Republic of South Sudan. That nation will face the task of providing security and stability for its people after decades of war. The international community came together in support of the referendum, and this broad multilateral unity was essential to the process' success. It is now time to support the people of the Sudan as they move into a new phase of their history. The people of all parts of the Sudan need to know that they have our full support during this critical period.

With the referendum process completed, it is more important than ever that outstanding issues, such as the status of Abyei, be resolved as quickly as possible. We are pleased to note the 21 January meeting of the presidency, at which the Sudan's leaders agreed to continue to discuss ways to swiftly resolve the Abyei impasse. We urge that these negotiations continue at the highest level. We appreciate the parties' efforts over recent weeks to maintain calm on the ground in Abyei, and it is imperative that a compromise be found to break this impasse and maintain peace in that very tense region.

We are deeply grateful to Special Representative Menkerios for his leadership, and we look to him and the United Nations to continue to play a very active role. As long as Abyei's status remains unresolved, it could indeed trigger further instability across the Sudan, so his work and that of others in that regard is very important. We also consider peaceful and inclusive popular consultations in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states that reflect the will of the people to be essential components of implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). We urge the parties to ensure that these processes are completed before the interim period ends.

Beyond resolving outstanding CPA issues, we hope that the parties will also work to quickly complete post-referendum arrangements. We urge the parties to swiftly resolve the remaining issues of citizenship, security, water, debt and assets, currency, oil management and wealth-sharing. Resolving these issues will facilitate international assistance to the Sudan, both North and South, and help to ensure a peaceful post-CPA transition. Alternatively, leaving them unresolved is but an invitation to trouble.

We believe that the United Nations should continue to play an important role in assisting the parties to implement their CPA-mandated responsibilities, and we urge the parties to consider ways that a United Nations peacekeeping presence might help their peace efforts and support post-CPA agreements, especially on security. The African Union (AU) is also actively engaged on these issues, and we fully support the work of the AU High-Level Implementation Panel and its Chair, President Thabo Mbeki, including his engagement in Darfur.

The United States remains strongly committed to ensuring lasting resolution of the Darfur conflict, and we are deeply concerned about the region's deteriorating security situation. United States Senior Adviser for Darfur, Ambassador Dane Smith, will work with all parties to ensure justice and accountability, and to reach a comprehensive political solution. We will also persist in our efforts to improve security and humanitarian conditions for the people of Darfur.

We continue to condemn in the strongest possible terms the Government of the Sudan's use of aerial bombardment, and we also ask Council members to join us in doing so. Ending aerial bombardment and ensuring full freedom of movement for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and humanitarian aid workers are essential steps that would clearly demonstrate the Government of the Sudan's commitment to ending the violence in Darfur.

The renewed fighting in December, chiefly between the Government of the Sudan and the Minni Minnawi faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement, displaced tens of thousands of civilians. Regrettably, the Government of the Sudan continues to refuse UNAMID full freedom of movement. This Council has had numerous discussions on this issue, including last week with Joint Special Representative Gambari. We have a responsibility to the civilians of Darfur who live under the continual threat violence to press UNAMID to fully implement its Chapter VII mandate. We call on the Government of the Sudan and rebel movements to reach an immediate ceasefire agreement and to engage seriously to find a political solution to a conflict that has lasted far too long. The United States has

repeatedly made clear that if its relationship with the Government of the Sudan is to reach its full potential, as we fervently hope it will, the Government of the Sudan must bring peace to Darfur, fully cooperate with UNAMID, provide unrestricted humanitarian access to Darfur, implement a comprehensive peace agreement and contribute to efforts to achieve accountability, justice and reconciliation, while upholding international law and complying with all Security Council resolutions.

This is, at its essence, a moment of hope after a long time of trial. The Sudan has suffered far too much for far too long. Now that the referendum has passed, we will continue to work closely with the Sudanese people in the North and the South to ensure that the referendum is not the end of a process but the beginning of a better future for both nations.

**Sir Mark Lyall Grant** (United Kingdom): I would like to begin by welcoming Ambassador Osman and Minister Deng Alor Kuol to the Security Council today. I would also like to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Menkerios, President Mkapa and the head of the African Union Liaison Office in the Sudan for their briefings, for the support that the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) has provided to the Southern Sudan referendum process, and for the work that the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan has done to monitor that process.

The Panel's assessment that the process as a whole was free, fair and credible confirms that the results announced by the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission on 7 February reflect the will of the people of Southern Sudan, freely expressed. I welcome this. Above all, I warmly welcome the statements that we have heard today from Ambassador Osman and Minister Deng Alor Kuol, which echo the positive reaction of both President Al-Bashir and First Vice-President Salva Kiir to the results of the referendum. As the United Kingdom Prime Minister David Cameron said on 7 February, this moment is a testament to the leaders in both North and South Sudan who ensured a credible and peaceful process. I echo his sentiment today. This is indeed an historic moment, and great credit is due to all those who helped to bring it about.

Courageous political leadership, underpinned by the hard work and dedication of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and Special Representative Menkerios, has enabled the people of Southern Sudan to make their voices heard and to determine their future. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) gave them the confidence that their choice would be respected. It is worth reflecting for a moment on the significance of this achievement.

But there remains much to be done before the end of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The violence in Upper Nile state on 3 to 5 February underlined the urgency of reaching agreement on all outstanding CPA issues, including Abyei, the border, citizenship and wealth-sharing. We welcome the commitments made at the 27 January presidency meeting to resolve these issues, and urge the parties to make the compromises necessary to securing long-term peace and stability. We welcome also the invaluable work of President Mbeki and the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel in supporting these negotiations.

If we look to the future, it is clear that the peace and prosperity of all Sudanese people will depend on sustained cooperation between North and South. The community of nations, which the people of Southern Sudan will soon join, must work with both North and South to support their development and to help strengthen friendly relations between them. As my Foreign Secretary told this Council on 16 November, "[t]he United Kingdom stands ready to play its part, based on our historic and enduring commitment to all the people of the Sudan" (*S/PV.6425, p. 15*).

The United Kingdom is working with others on the handling of the Sudan's international debt. We are supporting the CPA parties on the demarcation of the border, and we are providing $60 million to the United Nations Common Humanitarian Fund for the benefit of the people of the Sudan, both North and South.

That commitment of course also extends to the people of Darfur. I therefore cannot conclude without addressing the situation there, which remains of deep concern. The displacement of thousands of civilians highlights the impact of the ongoing violence on the most vulnerable. We call on all parties to cease hostilities and to ensure full and unhindered access for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and humanitarian workers.

With concerted political will, we believe that peace in Darfur can be achieved. We continue to support the work of African Union-United Nations

Joint Chief Mediator Djibrill Bassolé in his efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement in Darfur. We call on all rebel groups that remain outside the negotiations to join the peace process without delay or preconditions. Those that refuse can expect to be sanctioned by the Council. A lasting peace can only be based on the consent of, and justice for, the people of Darfur. We therefore recognize the contribution that Darfur-based consultations could make once a genuine enabling environment has been created in the region.

As we reflect on the historic achievement of the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in holding a peaceful and credible Southern Sudan referendum, all the people of the Sudan can be assured of the commitment of the United Kingdom to support them in building a peaceful and prosperous future.

**Mr. Churkin** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are grateful to Mr. Menkerios and Mr. Mkapa for their briefings and the work they have done. We also welcome the statements by the representatives of the Sudanese parties.

The exercise in expressing the will of the people was a success thanks to the commitment of the leadership in North and South Sudan to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Russia respects the outcome of the voting, which reflects the choice of the people of South Sudan. The issue now on the agenda is to resolve the main issues of contention between the Sudanese parties during the transition period, such as the status of Abyei, the demarcation of the borders, the distribution of oil revenues and the questions of citizenship and external debt.

It is fundamentally important that the parties continue to express their readiness to resolve those problems and, more generally, to build their relations in a spirit of constructive cooperation. That is the only valid choice in meeting the interests of the people of the Sudan and addressing the challenge of ensuring long-term peace in the territory of this country and the region as a whole. We hope that the leaders in Khartoum and Juba will live up to their responsibilities in this fundamentally new emerging phase of Sudanese history.

There is of course a need for significant international assistance in establishing effective statehood in South Sudan, which will gain its sovereignty on 9 July. The activities of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan continue to be an important factor in supporting stability during the upcoming transition period. Any changes in the configuration and mandate of the United Nations presence should be agreed with the Sudanese sides.

A key task in the coming period will be to settle the conflict in Darfur. That will be possible only by reaching comprehensive political agreements by all parties in Darfur. We support the focus of the current mediation mechanism in Doha to conclude a framework agreement for a settlement in Darfur in the near future. We hope that the Doha process, which continues to be the main platform for reaching peace agreements with the Darfur rebels, as well as other initiatives on a political process in Darfur, will be carried out on a mutually complementary basis.

We welcome the readiness of the Government of the Sudan to continue its constructive participation in the Darfur political settlement process. A priority task today is to ensure that all the main rebel groups in Darfur join the process without preconditions. The international community should put pressure on those rebel leaders who obstinately refuse to participate in the negotiations.

Russia will continue to actively support the establishment of lasting peace, stability and development in the Sudan, in cooperation with the United Nations, the African Union and other interested partners.

**Mr. Sangqu** (South Africa): We meet today on a historic occasion to celebrate the remarkable and successful outcome of the Southern Sudan referendum. We are pleased to be joined by His Excellency Mr. Deng Alor Kuol, Minister of Regional Cooperation of the Government of Southern Sudan, as well as Ambassador Osman, Permanent Representative of the Sudan, who is here on behalf of his Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Ali Ahmed Karti. Allow me also to thank Special Representative of the Secretary General Haile Menkerios, former President Benjamin Mkapa and His Excellency Ambassador Kane, on behalf of the High-Level Panel on the Sudan, for their encouraging briefings to the Council today.

At the outset, South Africa wishes to join in congratulating the people and Government of the Sudan on the conclusion and announcement of the results of the Southern Sudan referendum. In that regard, we wish to reiterate the sentiments expressed by President Jacob Zuma in which he "lauded the

efforts of both President Al-Bashir and First Vice-President Salva Kiir on delivering a peaceful and credible referendum for the people of Southern Sudan".

During its recent Summit in Addis Ababa, the leadership of the African Union adopted a solemn declaration on the Sudan in which it recalled that, as a result of the exceptional challenge inherited from its colonial past and the unique nature of its national question, in 2005 Sudanese leaders resolved to grant the right of self-determination to the people of Southern Sudan. The results announced by the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission on 7 February 2011 therefore bear testimony to the collective desire of the people of Southern Sudan to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with the provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), thus expressing their commitment to turn their back on war and to embrace a future path of peace, dignity, democracy and development.

On behalf of the people and Government of South Africa, President Jacob Zuma welcomed

> "the immediate acceptance of the results of the referendum by the Government of the Sudan and its expression of willingness to support and conclude all necessary procedures to ensure the establishment of an independent, viable State of South Sudan".

He further said that the acceptance of the results by President Al-Bashir demonstrated the strong political will for peace that exists among the leaders in the Sudan and set the foundation for harmonious coexistence between the people of North and South Sudan.

The African Union Summit also hailed

> "the courage, vision and steadfastness of the Government of the Sudan, under the leadership of President Omer Al-Bashir and First Vice-President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit, which has made possible this momentous achievement".

The Summit also pledged Africa's support as they fulfil their historic responsibility.

We must also congratulate the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and the Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau which, in four months and with little resources, achieved such astonishing success by competently facilitating a timely referendum process. We also pay tribute to the thousands of volunteers who worked under trying circumstances, sometimes without food or water, to ensure the historic success of the referendum.

The successful referendum in the Sudan has demonstrated that national ownership accompanied by the support of the international community is critical in ensuring the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. My delegation therefore pays tribute to the work of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, under the leadership of Mr. Menkerios; the African Union and its High Level Implementation Panel on the Sudan, chaired by former President Mbeki; the Chairperson of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, former President Benjamin Mkapa; and the countless bilateral and regional partners that contributed to the success of the referendum.

The success of this referendum constitutes an important and critical contribution towards the full implementation of the CPA. The journey ahead will be challenging. However, South Africa is encouraged by the commitment of the parties to the CPA to speedily deal with all outstanding issues, such as the status of Abyei, as well as post-referendum issues — which include border demarcation, natural resources and economic issues, citizenship, security and other issues — as they have promised. In that regard, South Africa is in full support of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, led by former President Thabo Mbeki, in its work of facilitating the negotiations between the parties on post-referendum issues.

My delegation remains concerned about the deteriorating security situation in Darfur and its devastating humanitarian impact on the region. We reiterate the call on the armed movements by the Security Council and the African Union (AU) to immediately cease all hostilities. We welcome the joint communiqué signed by the Justice and Equality Movement and the Liberation and Justice Movement on 29 January, in which the parties demonstrate a common commitment to peace and justice. It is vital that those commitments translate into the signing of a peace agreement and an end to the violence and hostilities in Darfur.

South Africa calls on those outside the process, especially the Abdul Wahid al-Nur faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement, to join peace negotiations in Doha, as there can be no military solution to the conflict in Darfur. We look forward to an early conclusion of the Doha process so as to lay a strong foundation for the equally important, all-inclusive constituency negotiations based on the Darfur political process as mandated by the African Union.

As we look to the parties in the Sudan to fully implement their commitments under the CPA, we are again reminded of the AU solemn declaration on the Sudan, in which the AU renewed Africa's solidarity with the entire Sudanese people and welcomed equally North and South Sudan and the emerging post-referendum situation as building blocks for the ongoing project of African integration. Having achieved peace, the Sudanese people are now able to fully participate as effective actors and beneficiaries in the common African endeavour of shared prosperity and continental unity.

We call on the international community to ensure that we live up to the expectations of North and South Sudan alike in making their continued journey mutually rewarding. South Africa, for its part, will continue with the projects that it has launched in the Sudan since the signing of the CPA and will support, where necessary, ongoing peace and good neighbourliness between North Sudan and South Sudan.

**Mr. Salam** (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): It is my pleasure to express my appreciation to President Mkapa, Chairperson of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan, and Mr. Mahmoud Kane, Head of the African Union Liaison Office in Khartoum. I would also like to thank Mr. Haile Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, as well as the head of regional cooperation office in South Sudan for their opening remarks.

It is worth recalling today the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, which was signed in 2005 and helped our brothers in Southern Sudan and Northern Sudan to overcome an atrocious war that left countless victims over many years. Despite the events of the past, the parties were able to initiate cooperation, which helped them to implement the Agreement, with assistance from the United Nations, the African Union and the League of Arab States. Thus, they were able to conduct a referendum in a peaceful and honest atmosphere in Southern Sudan so that the people could take charge of their own future in a free and democratic manner. They have honoured their commitments and respected the will of the people of Southern Sudan to live in independence, in accordance with the official results of the referendum, which were announced yesterday.

That does not mean, however, that the North and the South have reached the end of the path between them, as indicated by the Prime Minister of the Sudan. The Prime Minister stated that there would be no hostility between the North and the South, but instead strong ties between the two parties and the two countries. In that context, we applaud the initiative of the Sudanese President, who issued a presidential decree announcing the results of the referendum and making further commitments to work on the various pending matters related to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Those principles and actions strengthen the atmosphere of optimism that currently prevails and will create closer ties between the North and the South, with a view to increasing coordination and cooperation. That coordination will be undertaken in a new political context in the service of their mutual interests. It goes without saying, however, that we must monitor pending issues very closely. Those issues include the situation in Abyei and post-referendum matters, such as citizenship, wealth-sharing, oil and water revenues, debt and others. We hope that the agreement will have a positive impact on the situation in Southern Sudan. We believe that the adoption of a Darfur peace agreement will have a positive impact on the overall situation in the Sudan.

The Doha process requires the participation of all parties in Darfur. We agree with the call for the Council to strengthen that participation by way of the sanctions list, among other means. We would encourage the Sudanese Government to pursue positive measures so as to create an environment conducive to talks and cooperation, including between the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the Government of the Sudan. It would be best to not set definitive dates for talking about the end of Doha, nor create parallel or competing portfolios; rather, they should be complementary.

Returning to the situation in Darfur, I would like to congratulate Mr. Haile Menkerios and Mr. Ibrahim Gambari on their respective roles in that regard.

**Mr. Osorio** (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I wish to express my gratitude for the statements delivered by Mr. Menkerios, Mr. Mkapa, Mr. Kane, Mr. Osman and Mr. Deng Alor Kuol.

Today, we are recognizing a historic event for the Sudanese people, for the African continent and for all of those who are convinced that conflicts can and must be settled through peaceful and democratic means. The outcome of the referendum is a testament to the will for independence of the people of Southern Sudan. Its importance has been emphasized by the massive voter turnout. Colombia would like to congratulate the Sudanese people for their genuine expression of democracy and the leaders of the Sudan for demonstrating their commitment to and acceptance of the referendum results. I should also like to highlight the work of all of those who participated in the preparation, financing and conduct of the process.

Although the outcome of the referendum marks a milestone in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, we must not lose sight of the fact that the full implementation of the Agreement is essential to fully resolve the situation. Pending substantive issues must be addressed in order to ensure peaceful and mutually beneficial relations between the North and the South.

Unless outstanding issues are resolved definitively — such as those pertaining to citizenship, wealth-sharing, security, natural resources management and border demarcation — serious reversals could occur, leading to endless difficulties. It is therefore important that the parties be encouraged to commit to the effective advancement of negotiations and to support the efforts of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel responsible for implementing the recommendations on the Sudan.

We echo and share the concerns of the other Council members at the situation in Abyei, which we have discussed on numerous occasions. The parties need to make a firm commitment and demonstrate brave political will so as to overcome, with assistance from the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel, the current impasse in the negotiations.

My delegation is confident that the willingness expressed by President Al-Bashir and First Vice-President Kiir at their recent meeting will pave the way for achieving concrete results on all pending issues.

As the interim period ends, the Security Council in particular and the United Nations in general should commit to supporting development and institutional capacity-building of the new State structures, and to encouraging peaceful coexistence between the North and the South. My delegation believes that, with the successful conduct of the referendum and the commitment to respecting its results, it will be possible to achieve an inclusive, adequate agreement that responds to the needs of the people of Darfur and addresses all the roots of the conflict. We reiterate our commitment to the negotiation process evolving in Doha, and we welcome the work of the United Nations-African Union Joint Chief Mediator, Mr. Djibril Bassolé, and the Government of Qatar.

In this regard, we welcome the participation in the negotiations of the Liberation and Justice Movement and the Justice and Equality Movement, and we once again urge all rebel groups to join them immediately and without preconditions, and to cooperate fully in the process. In the view of my delegation, the political process in Darfur should be based on the results achieved in Doha and conducted in an environment that ensures its functionality and inclusiveness. It is important to guarantee the coordination of all stakeholders interested in achieving a peaceful solution in the region.

The situation and security in Darfur continue to be of great concern. An agreement leading to a ceasefire between the parties should be a key and immediate objective. Finally, let me reiterate that the international community and our Organization in particular must maintain their commitment to this and future generations in the quest for peace and prosperity for the Sudanese people.

**Mr. Moraes Cabral** (Portugal): Let me start by commending the peaceful way in which the Sudan has started a new chapter of its history. This is indeed a historic achievement. Portugal looks forward to continuing working with the North and the South to build a peaceful and prosperous future for both countries.

I thank Special Representative Menkerios and President Benjamin Mkapa for their comprehensive

briefings, as well as for the significant work the Special Representative and the Secretary-General's Panel have undertaken. Allow me also to extend a word of appreciation to Minister Deng Alor Kuol and Ambassadors Kane and Osman for their statements. What we heard from all of them today is indeed very encouraging.

Portugal welcomes the official announcement on 7 February of the final results of the referendum on self-determination for the people of Southern Sudan, and congratulates them once again on their peaceful determination and the orderly way in which they expressed their democratic will. We commend the two parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) for living up fully to the political commitment required to ensure that the peace process moves forward. We also commend the work of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission in Khartoum and Juba, and of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan.

The Southern Sudanese people have clearly expressed their determination to establish an independent State. But as we have underlined before, despite the remarkable operational and political achievement that the referendum represents, the work to complete implementation of the CPA is not over. It requires further, complex negotiations led in a spirit of continued compromise and cooperation on the part of both parties. We are encouraged by the willingness reiterated by President Bashir and First Vice-President Kiir to continue implementing the CPA and seeking an agreement on the key post-referendum arrangements that are essential to ensuring a peaceful future and a mutually beneficial relationship between two viable States.

In this regard, we welcome the start of the popular consultation process in Blue Nile state and urge the parties to once again ensure inclusive, timely and credible popular consultation processes there and in Southern Kordofan state. Another question of paramount importance is reaching a comprehensive agreement on the status of Abyei, encompassing all the issues at stake. The lack of such an agreement will only tend to keep fuelling tensions in the region. We therefore reaffirm our support for the ongoing mediation work of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel and its Chair, President Thabo Mbeki. While leaders of the North and the South continue to work together, it is also essential that both parties protect the rights of Sudanese civilians, whether Northerners or Southerners.

Peace and hope should extend to all Sudanese, including those in Darfur. Continued violence against civilians and violations of their human rights are unacceptable and must cease forthwith. Portugal wishes to voice its appreciation for the efforts so far undertaken within the African Union-United Nations-led peace process for Darfur, and to acknowledge the added value that the Darfur-based political process can represent as a complement to the Doha process once the enabling environment throughout Darfur has been established.

But, as many of us have stressed, a peaceful solution to the crisis in Darfur can be found only if there is real commitment from all parties to laying the foundations for an inclusive and comprehensive peace agreement. We are therefore encouraged by the willingness to negotiate within the Doha framework recently shown by the Government of the Sudan and by the Justice and Equality Movement and the Liberation and Justice Movement. Nevertheless, we urge all the other groups to join and actively engage in the peace process without further delay or preconditions, and to cease hostilities immediately. We also call on the parties to ensure full and unhindered access for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur throughout the Mission area, and to allow humanitarian workers to provide assistance to all populations in need.

To conclude, let me underline again that the continuing commitment, engagement and close cooperation of all parties will be necessary to achieve a peaceful and prosperous future for the North and the South alike. Likewise, the international community must continue to show its unity and act in a concerted manner under the leadership of the United Nations, affording the two States the support and encouragement they will need in the still difficult times ahead. Portugal will continue to support along these lines, and with the objective of supporting all efforts that can contribute to making this new chapter of the Sudanese people's life, in the South and in the North, an effective success.

**Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri** (India): I, too, would like to thank Special Representative Haile Menkerios and President Benjamin Mkapa for their comprehensive and useful briefings on the current

situation in the Sudan. I would also like to join others in thanking the representatives of the African Union, the Ambassador of the Sudan and the Minister from the Government of Southern Sudan for sharing their perspectives on the situation with us.

As other colleagues have mentioned, we have witnessed events that have far-reaching significance, not only for the people of the Sudan but also for the region and, indeed, for the entire African continent. A very large number of eligible voters — 97.58 per cent — participated in the referendum, and an overwhelming number of those voters — 98.83 per cent — raised their voice in favour of separation. For the organization of a fair and transparent referendum, our thanks are due to the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and to the international organizations involved, in particular the United Nations — as well as, of course, the European Union, the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and others partnering the Commission.

Most importantly, the leadership shown by President Al-Bashir and First Vice-President Salva Kiir is to be complemented, because without their political will and cooperation the process could not have run as smoothly and peacefully as it did. We are glad that President Al-Bashir welcomed the results on 7 February as the will of the Southern Sudanese people. We also welcome First Vice-President Salva Kiir's statement that the referendum was not the end of the road, and that he will cooperate with Khartoum to build strong relations.

The conclusion of the referendum process is only a milestone, albeit an important one, on the road to the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in the Sudan.

Enormous challenges lie ahead. A number of issues remain to be resolved, including citizenship, the status of Abyei, popular consultations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states, border delineation and demarcation, the division of resources and security arrangements. In this context, we are encouraged by the meeting held in Khartoum on 27 January between President Al-Bashir and First Vice-President Salva Kiir, along with President Thabo Mbeki. Their agreement to promote sustainable peace and stability between the North and the South, to let the CPA institutions continue their work until the end of the interim period, to continue with the work of the Technical Committee on Border Demarcation, and to resolve the status of Abyei is most welcome.

The efforts of the Sudanese parties need to be supported by the international community. We should look beyond the referendum and assist the parties in their nation-building exercise. Sustainable peace and stability can be firmly established only when the development needs of all of the people of the Sudan are met. The fragility of the situation was demonstrated once again during the past week. More than 50 people, including a United Nations staff member, were killed in clashes between Southern and Northern soldiers from the joint integrated unit from Malakal in Upper Nile state.

There are also several fault lines in Southern Sudan. Indeed, even as we deliberate here today, we have received news of the killing of a minister of the Government of Southern Sudan. While this was reportedly due to an issue between the personalities concerned, it does point to the security challenges in the region. We therefore believe that unless the pending issues are resolved expeditiously and the process of building governance and economic development institutions is accelerated, conflicts along those fault lines remain a real danger.

India has some 3,000 troops in the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and has contributed six Mi-17 helicopters. The Sudan is the largest recipient of lines of credit from India, with projects totaling nearly $1 billion. India is the second largest investor in the Sudan. For capacity-building in civilian sectors, India offers more than 150 slots every year under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme and 20 post-graduate and doctoral scholarships for student from both North and South Sudan. In July last year, we offered fellowships in Indian agricultural universities for four PhD and six MSc courses to the Sudan under the India-Africa Action Plan.

India stands ready to further enhance its assistance to the Sudan, as may be required by the Governments of the Sudan and Southern Sudan. We urge the international community to increase its support to the Sudan in the areas of debt relief, economic investment and assistance so that Sudanese leaders have material resources as well as public support for dealing with and surmounting the challenges they face.

Last but not least, the situation on the ground in Darfur is not much better than the last time the Council discussed the issue. While there has been some encouraging news about the two rebel groups deciding to send their teams to Doha, we have yet to see a breakthrough. The Council should therefore reiterate its demand that all armed groups agree to an immediate ceasefire and participate in the Doha peace process without delay or conditions so that the process may reach its successful conclusion. We commend the Government of Qatar for its sustained efforts in favour of the success of the Doha peace process for sustainable peace in Darfur, which includes all sections of society. We welcome the efforts of the Government of the Sudan to start a Darfur-based political process that would build on the outcomes of the Doha peace process. In this context, we commend the efforts of the High-Level Implementation Panel led by President Mbeki, and welcome the 31 January declaration of the African Union on the complete normalization of relations between the international community and the Sudan.

**Mr. Barbalić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina): I thank Mr. Menkerios, Special Representative of the Secretary-General; President Mkapa, Chair of the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan; and Ambassador Mahmoud Kane. We also welcome the participation of the Permanent Representative of the Sudan and the Minister of Regional Cooperation of the Government of Southern Sudan.

We welcome the announcement of the final results of the referendum on Southern Sudan and commend the parties for their constructive cooperation in the referendum process. Bosnia and Herzegovina supports the full and timely implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). In that regard, we urge the parties to redouble their efforts to find solutions for Abyei and other outstanding CPA issues — including wealth-sharing, management of assets and debts, citizenship and border security arrangements — before the end of the interim period.

We praise the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel and other international partners for their roles in assisting the CPA parties in this important endeavour. We are encouraged by the activities of the international community and the United Nations in anticipating the future engagement of the United Nations in Southern Sudan. Special attention should be given to capacity-building, economic development and efforts to develop cooperation between the North and South as a crucial component of long-term stability in the region.

We are concerned by the fact that the parties have not yet reached an agreement on Abyei. We urge them to reconcile their differences and find an acceptable solution regarding this important part of the CPA as soon as possible.

We commend the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) for its efforts in Abyei at this critical time. With regard to restrictions on the freedom of movement of UNMIS, we call on the Sudanese authorities to ensure the Mission's unhindered access.

A just, comprehensive and inclusive solution must be found for Darfur. It is high time to end the vicious cycle of violence and bring peace to the people of that region. We reiterate our full support for the United Nations and African Union-led peace process in Doha and the efforts of the Joint Chief Mediator, Mr. Bassolé. We urge all parties to join the Doha peace process without preconditions or further delays.

We are concerned by the upsurge of violence in Darfur and call upon all parties to cease hostilities and ensure unrestricted access to personnel of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and humanitarian workers to the affected areas and population in need. We strongly condemn the continued attacks on and kidnapping of UNAMID and humanitarian personnel. We urge the Government to ensure law and order in Darfur and to bring the perpetrators of such acts to justice. Ending impunity is a critical factor for ensuring lasting peace and stability in Darfur.

Finally, we commend UNMIS and UNAMID personnel for their tireless efforts in carrying out their mandates in difficult circumstances.

**Mr. Moungara Moussotsi** (Gabon) (*spoke in French*): I, too, would like to thank Mr. Menkerios and President Mkapa for their statements and for their important work in the Sudan. I also thank Ambassador Osman and Mr. Deng Alor Kuol, Minister of Regional Cooperation of the Government of Southern Sudan, for their statements.

The announcement of the final results of the referendum on 7 February marks the conclusion of a long political process throughout which the authorities

of both the North and the South showed great restraint and commitment to peace. I would therefore like to pay a warm and well-deserved tribute to them here.

The statement made by President Al-Bashir recognizing the results announced by the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and thereby committing to respect the choice of independence made by the Southern Sudanese should be commended. Likewise, I welcome the commitments made by First Vice-President Salva Kiir to work alongside the Sudanese Government in the mutual interests of the North and the South. The Council should therefore encourage the two parties to keep up this momentum of cooperation and spirit of openness in order to conclude discussions on post-referendum arrangements and the status of Abyei as soon as possible. We call on the two parties to make the necessary courageous concessions to bring about a successful conclusion to the political process. We welcome the leadership of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel, chaired by President Thabo Mbeki.

In addition, the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement must also agree on a framework to determine the future of the millions of Southerners who live in the North and Northerners who live in the South. To that end, they must provide essential guarantees to reassure the civilian population.

The clashes near the border town of Malakal, which have caused almost 50 deaths, including one United Nations staff member, remind us that the future of friendly relations and peaceful coexistence between the North and the South, aimed at achieving stability in the Sudan, requires the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and an early conclusion of the suspended talks.

The success of the referendum in Southern Sudan must not obscure the precarious nature of the situation in Darfur and its impact on the civilian population and humanitarian workers. We must therefore maintain pressure on the parties, in particular to encourage armed groups that have not yet joined the peace process to do so without conditions or delay.

We welcome and support the efforts by the Government of Qatar and African Union-United Nations Chief Mediator Djibril Bassolé. We also welcome the presence in Doha of the Justice and Equality Movement and the Liberation and Justice Movement.

Establishing and building the new State of Southern Sudan will require an enhanced mobilization of efforts and substantial support by the international community, in particular in the economic sphere. This support must also be provided to the Government of the Sudan, whose cooperation was a decisive factor in the holding of the referendum in the South.

**Mr. Araud** (France) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Haile Menkerios for his briefing and his outstanding work at the head of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS). I also thank President Mbeki and President Mkapa for their decisive work alongside UNMIS in the past few months. I should also like to thank Mr. Deng Alor Kuol and Mr. Osman, the representative of the Sudan, for their statements. I also welcome the commitment shown by the two parties throughout the referendum process. Finally, on behalf of the French authorities, I congratulate the people of Southern Sudan on the maturity they have shown on this historic occasion.

The immediate recognition by the parties of the official results announced Monday by the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission shows the significant progress that has been achieved since the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed in 2005. The authorities in Khartoum and Juba have chosen the path of peaceful cooperation to achieve a successful conclusion to the referendum and acceptance of its results. We welcome this common will to overcome the past.

However, as previous speakers have said, much remains to be done before the end of the interim period in July. First of all, a solution must be found to the issue of Abyei. A temporary agreement has allowed for the cessation of violence between the parties. A lasting solution must be found in order to determine once and for all the status of the province and the terms on which the populations there can coexist. We would request that the two parties find a solution before March, as they agreed at the presidential level on 27 January.

In addition, the pending post-referendum questions must be resolved. The future of the relationship between the North and the South depends on a common understanding of the border demarcation and of issues of security, citizenship and wealth sharing. As the clashes last week in the Upper Nile region have shown, a solution must be found for the

Southern forces that are there as part of the Sudanese Army, as well as for the Northern forces in the Sudan People's Liberation Army stationed in Blue Nile and Kordofan. We encourage the continued mediation by the Mbeki Panel on these subjects and call on the parties to spare no effort and make the necessary concessions to allow for the establishment of a lasting peace.

For its part, the United Nations will now start the important task of adapting its presence and work, with the participation of the Sudan, in two distinct countries. A new mission will have to be re-established in Southern Sudan in order to carry out the task of peacebuilding there. Its mandate will have to take into account the decisive role that the United Nations team established in Juba will be called to play in coordination with bilateral donors.

In North Sudan, retaining a cell from UNMIS would be a valuable step to take in terms of providing follow-up to the implementation of post-referendum issues and supporting the final stages of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, that is, the conclusion of the popular polls in the Blue Nile, where they have begun, and in Southern Kordofan, where they have not yet been organized. This would provide support to the two new neighbours in the early stages of their bilateral relations. We are at the Secretariat's disposal in terms of contributing to the consideration under way on the reconfiguration of the United Nations presence in the North and the South.

While we welcome the successful holding of the referendum, we cannot ignore the current deterioration in the situation in Darfur. The number of displaced persons has increased. Humanitarian access is not always possible. We are therefore left to wonder whether some have not indeed chosen the military option. We know that this is not a viable option. The Sudanese Armed Forces and the rebel groups must reach a ceasefire with delay, followed by a lasting peace agreement.

The developments we have seen in recent weeks in the context of the Doha negotiations are encouraging. The Sudan People's Liberation Army, headed by Abdul Wahid al-Nur, must, from now on and without delay or preconditions, join the talks, as have the Liberation and Justice Movement and the Justice and Equality Movement.

We also support the efforts undertaken by the African Union for peace in Darfur. As highlighted recently by the solemn declaration made by the heads of State and Government of the African Union on the Sudan, a political process in Darfur will be able to complement the efforts in Doha once those efforts have created an environment that allows for such talks to be held.

We also continue to support the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and firmly condemn the hindrances it faces. The mission must redouble its efforts to protect civilians, as required by its mandate. Progress must still be made in this respect.

I would like to conclude by recalling that there can be no peace without justice in Darfur.

**Mrs. Ogwu** (Nigeria): Let me to join others in thanking His Excellency President Mkapa, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Haile Menkerios and Ambassador Mahmoud Kane for their illuminating and inspiring statements today. Their invaluable input throughout this historic process has without a doubt contributed to the successful outcome of the South Sudan referendum. I would also like to welcome the representatives of the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan and thank them indeed for their contributions to this meeting.

On behalf of my Government, I want to welcome the final result of the South Sudan referendum, which represents the true and valid wish of the people of South Sudan, expressed in a free, fair and transparent process.

In that connection, we want to once again commend President Omer Al-Bashir and First Vice-President Salva Kiir for leading the challenging process to a successful conclusion. Their statements of mutual support and timely acceptance of the outcome of the referendum, reaffirmed here today by their representatives, demonstrate their exemplary courage, leadership, goodwill and dedication to the peace process. The people of the Sudan and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan also deserve our commendation.

The announcement and acceptance of the referendum results by all parties in the Sudan have paved the way for a new State to emerge through a peaceful process, and we look forward to welcoming South Sudan into the United Nations and African

Union families in July. We hope that the parties in the Sudan will seize the current moment to pursue sincere negotiations on the remaining CPA and post-referendum issues. It is possible, in our view, for both parties, inspired by the success of the referendum to work tirelessly between now and July to complete the key outstanding tasks under the CPA.

We share the concerns expressed by Member States today over the status of Abyei. We believe that it is necessary to reach workable compromises on the Abyei question, the North-South border, popular consultations in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states, and security arrangements between the North and South. Undoubtedly, the successful determination of these issues will engender a stable partnership between North and South Sudan in the long term.

There is no doubt that South Sudan will face formidable challenges on the road to achieving a stable and effective Government. Indeed, the challenges of State-building will be exacerbated by the rising expectations of independence and statehood. The truth, however, is that attaining economic, political and social transformation is always an arduous process. The leaders of South Sudan must therefore stay focused on and remain committed to developing a transparent and inclusive political process that incorporates all segments, guarantees freedoms and protects all people, particularly women and children.

We welcome in this regard First Vice-President Salva Kiir's convening of a constitutional panel to review the South's legal institutions. Nigeria recognizes that Southern Sudanese leaders cannot overcome the major challenges facing the territory on their own. Now more than ever, this Council and the international community must stand in solidarity with Southern Sudan. Our solidarity will indeed be put to the test in the quality and quantity of the assistance that we provide to the Government and people of South Sudan.

This Friday's Security Council debate on the interdependence between security and development will provide an opportunity for the Council to clarify its role in that regard. It is important for the Council to remain as united, resolute and committed as it has been in the past. We implore the African Union, the European Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, neighbouring countries and other bilateral partners to join hands in assisting Southern Sudan.

On Darfur, we welcome Joint Chief Mediator Djibrill Bassolé's extensive consultations within the Sudan and in the region. We also welcome the substantial progress in the Doha talks, and commend the Joint Chief Mediator for his perseverance and the Qatar Government for its enduring support. Once again, we urge the Justice and Equality Movement, the Sudan Liberation Movement-Abdul Wahid and the Government of the Sudan to seize the opportunity to engage fully in the Doha talks without preconditions. Nigeria firmly believes that an internal political process is indispensable to inclusiveness and consensus-building in intercommunal relations in Darfur. We therefore welcome the prospect of an open and credible Darfur-based political process to support and strengthen the Doha talks.

We would like to seize this opportunity to express once again our unalloyed support for the work of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) under the leadership of Mr. Ibrahim Gambari. I should note here that UNAMID is working in a challenging environment in Darfur.

Nigeria takes this opportunity to reiterate its commitment to the Sudanese peace process. We believe that our collective support will be crucial as the people of the Sudan, in the North and the South alike, make the necessary adjustments and transform their fortunes.

**Mr. Li Baodong** (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Allow me to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Haile Menkerios, President Mkapa and Ambassador Mahmoud Kane, speaking on behalf of President Mbeki, for their respective briefings. We welcome the presence of representatives from Northern and Southern Sudan at today's meeting.

Thanks to the joint efforts of Northern and Southern Sudan, the referendum in Southern Sudan was held smoothly and its final results were announced two days ago. China respects the will and choice of the Sudanese, and appreciates the unremitting efforts made by Northern and Southern Sudan to promote the peace process between them. The referendum is a crucial step in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), but it is not the end of the road.

The Security Council should pay close attention to the new situation, new challenges and new tasks that

have emerged following the referendum. It must also formulate corresponding strategies in a timely manner. We also hope that Northern and Southern Sudan will, in the spirit of mutual understanding and compromise, continue to seek solutions to the outstanding issues through dialogue and consultation, and see the implementation of the CPA through to its culmination in order to maintain peace and stability in the Sudan and the region.

China appreciates the assistance and support provided by the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) and the Secretary-General's Panel on the Referenda in the Sudan towards the orderly holding of the referendum. We welcome their ongoing assistance to Northern and Southern Sudan in the comprehensive implementation of the CPA. The mandate of UNMIS will expire at the end of April. At that time, the Security Council will need to make a decision on the future of the Mission. In that regard, China believes that the views of the parties should be taken into full consideration.

The African Union (AU) is a major strategic partner of the United Nations in addressing the issue of the Sudan. The AU and its High-Level Implementation Panel on the Sudan, led by Mr. Mbeki, played an important role in promoting the smooth holding of the referendum in the Southern Sudan. China welcomes the declaration on the Sudan issued at the recent AU Summit.

In order to achieve lasting peace in the Sudan, it is imperative that a comprehensive peace agreement be reached in Darfur as soon as possible. China has always been closely attentive to and supportive of the Doha talks, in which we welcome the recent progress. We urge all parties in Darfur that have yet to join the Doha talks to do so immediately and without condition. China supports the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and its positive contribution, under resolution 1935 (2010), to promoting the political process in Darfur.

**Mr. Wittig** (Germany): I will be brief. Most of the things I want to say have been said before, so I will focus on a very few points.

Germany warmly welcomes the peaceful voting during the referendum and joins others in congratulating the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and, above all, the people everywhere in the Sudan. We are encouraged by the responsible behaviour of the Government in Khartoum over recent weeks. Again, we extend our gratitude to the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and its Bureau. We commend the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and Special Representative Menkerios for their crucial contribution, as well as the Panel under President Mkapa.

After the pronouncement of the official results, all parties in the Sudan and the international community now need to focus on the future, the consolidation of peace, good relations and coexistence between the North and the South, and capacity-building for a wholly new State. In this enormous endeavour, all parties need to continue to cooperate in good faith.

The forthcoming creation of an independent State in South Sudan will redraw the political and economic landscape of Africa. At the same time, we see the opportunity for the development of peaceful neighbourly relations. Many serious challenges remain. In particular, there is a need for a durable solution to the question of Abyei. We urgently call upon the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to complete the popular consultations in South Kordofan and Blue Nile and to reach an agreement on Abyei. The other remaining post-referendum issues — such as citizenship, the rights of northerners in the South and of southerners in the North, wealth sharing, border demarcation and security arrangements — must be addressed without further delay.

The Council's decisions have been crucial for the peaceful referendum process. But the Security Council will have to continue to assume responsibility and extend its support to institution-building in the soon-to-be new independent State in South Sudan. Germany stands ready to contribute.

Finally, we must not divert our attention from the situation in Darfur. We are very concerned about the continuing violence in the region and the displacement of thousands of people. We urge the Government of the Sudan and all groups in Darfur to provide for the safety and security of the civilian population and to ensure unhindered access for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and for humanitarian aid.

We are encouraged to hear that the peace talks in Doha are about to gain new momentum. We continue to urge all parties to the peace talks to conclude a comprehensive ceasefire and agreements on all other outstanding issues. The people of Darfur deserve peace and they deserve it right now.

**The President**: I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of Brazil.

It is a great honour to preside over this historic meeting. The last time Brazil held the Council's presidency, almost six years ago, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) had just been signed. Since then, the parties to the CPA and the Sudanese people have come a long way on the path towards the democratic transformation of the Sudan.

Brazil warmly congratulates all Sudanese for the peaceful and transparent conduct of the referendum. We also commend Sudanese leaders for displaying statesmanship and for their determination to pursue dialogue and mutual understanding. We applaud the CPA parties for having accepted the results of the referendum and for committing to their implementation.

Brazil also commends the excellent work of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, under the leadership of Special Representative of the Secretary-General Haile Menkerios. We also reiterate our appreciation for the contribution of the Panels led by Presidents Mkapa and Mbeki.

However momentous this achievement is, the holding of the Southern Sudan referendum is but another step towards peace, stability and development in the Sudan. We encourage the parties to the CPA to continue to address the remaining issues and post-referendum arrangements in the same atmosphere of cooperation that prevailed during the holding of the referendum.

It is important that the popular consultations in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states be completed and that a solution is found concerning the status of Abyei.

The United Nations must continue to provide assistance, as requested, to ensure a smooth transition in the post-referendum period. Options for the future presence of the United Nations in the Sudan must take into account the interdependence between security and development, which so clearly manifests itself in the Sudanese conflicts. Institution-building and strong support for development will be necessary in Southern Sudan. The Peacebuilding Commission could play an important role in that regard.

The time has also come for the long-awaited peace in Darfur. The Doha peace process must come to a conclusion soon. Conditions must be reached for the launching of the Darfurian political process. We are encouraged by the announced intention of the Liberation and Justice Movement and the Justice and Equality Movement to participate in the Doha peace negotiations. Brazil deplores, nevertheless, the recent upsurge in hostilities and the continuation of attacks on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur and on humanitarian agencies.

Bilaterally, Brazil looks forward to strengthening its ties to both North and South Sudan. Our bilateral trade has been increasing in recent years. New partnerships are being forged in the areas of agriculture and biofuels. Cooperation initiatives are yielding results. With peace and stability in the Sudan, those initiatives will certainly thrive and be followed by many others.

We hope this momentous occasion marks the beginning of a future for all Sudanese that fully realizes their aspirations for stability, peace and development.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

As agreed by Council members, I shall now suspend the meeting, with the intention of resuming shortly.

*The meeting was suspended at 12.45 p.m. and resumed at 2.00 p.m.*

**The President**: I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the 7 February announcement by the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission of the final results of the referendum on self-determination for the people of Southern Sudan, which showed that 98.83 per cent of voters chose independence. The Council calls on the international community to lend its full support to all Sudanese people as they build a peaceful and prosperous future.

"The Council congratulates the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and the people of the Sudan for a peaceful and successful referendum, and commends the United Nations Mission in the Sudan for its contribution to the process.

"The Security Council warmly welcomes the statements of President Omer Al-Bashir and Vice-President Salva Kiir on 7 February, in which they accepted the final results of the referendum. The Council calls on all Member States to respect

the outcome of the referendum, and looks forward to welcoming an independent South Sudan as a new member of the international community after 9 July.

"The Security Council welcomes the work of the Secretary-General's Panel, led by former President Benjamin Mkapa. The Council praises the CPA parties for their commitment to the CPA, as illustrated by their support for a timely and credible referendum process. The Council underlines that full and timely implementation of the CPA is essential to peace and stability in the Sudan and the region and to future cooperation between Northern and Southern Sudan and the international community.

"The Security Council further acknowledges that the process mandated by the CPA represents an exceptional case and does not, by itself, set a precedent.

"The Security Council reaffirms its support for the work of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel and its Chair, President Thabo Mbeki, and notes the commitments made by the CPA parties in the 27 January presidency meeting and encourages them to continue to strive for a timely agreement on the implementation of outstanding CPA issues. The Council urges the parties to reach quickly an agreement on Abyei and other critical issues, including border demarcation, security arrangements, citizenship, debts, assets, currency, wealth-sharing and natural resource management. The Council welcomes the start of the popular consultation process in Blue Nile state and stresses the importance of inclusive, timely and credible popular consultations processes in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states, in accordance with the CPA.

"The Security Council deeply regrets the loss of life in violence in Upper Nile state from 3 to 5 February. The Security Council underlines the need for the CPA parties to prevent further clashes and promote calm, including by providing immediate and ongoing reassurance to people of all nationalities in the Sudan, including Southerners in the North and Northerners in the South, that their rights, safety and property will continue to be respected. The Council urges the CPA parties to respect their obligations.

"The Security Council reiterates its deep concern over the increase in violence and insecurity in Darfur, including ceasefire violations, attacks by rebel groups and aerial bombardment by the Sudanese Armed Forces, which recently displaced approximately 43,000 civilians, and the kidnapping on 13 January of three members of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service. The Security Council recalls the importance that it attaches to an end to impunity and to justice for crimes committed in Darfur. The Security Council reaffirms its support for The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), and urges all parties to ensure full and unhindered access for UNAMID throughout the mission area and to allow humanitarian workers to provide assistance to all populations in need.

"The Security Council reaffirms its support for the African Union-United Nations-led peace process for Darfur, hosted by the State of Qatar, the work of Joint Chief Mediator Djibril Bassolé, and the principles guiding the negotiations. The Council welcomes the presence of the Justice and Equality Movement and the Liberation and Justice Movement in Doha, and strongly urges all other rebel movements to join the peace process without further delay or preconditions, and all parties to engage with a view to concluding urgently a comprehensive agreement.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council by the end of February on issues related to the Darfur-based political process, including an assessment of the enabling environment.

"The Security Council reiterates the importance of increased participation of women in the Sudanese peace processes.

"The Security Council will continue to follow developments in the Sudan, including in Darfur, closely."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2011/3.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

*The meeting rose at 2.05 p.m.*